29 July, 2005. The debate that followed in both the Houses of Parliament provided an occasion to discuss and clarify the issue involved in the civil nuclear understanding. The Government is committed to keep the Parliament informed and Prime Minister in his Press Conference on 1 February, 2006 has stressed on the need for national consensus on this issue.

East Asia Summit at Kuala Lumpur

424. SHRIMATI SUKHBUNS KAUR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether an East Asia Summit was held at Kuala Lumpur from December 6 to 14, 2005;

(b) if so, whether any lines were drawn therein for an East Asian Community;

(c) if so, the details of the Declaration adopted at the Summit;

(d) whether any differences were noticed there in regard to the position taken by India and China; and

(e) if so, in what manner the same were resolved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) The East Asia Summit was held in Kuala Lumpur on December 14, 2005;

(b) and (c) The Leaders exchanged views, *inter-alia*, on the long-term objective of community building as an integral part of the evolving regional architecture. A copy of the Kuala Lumpur Declaration on the East Asia Summit that was signed by the Leaders is attached as Statement (*See* below).

(d) and (e) The discussions at the East Asia Summit were of an informal nature in a Retreat format, wherein the participants shared their respective perspectives on the issues under consideration. The consensus that emerged is reflected in the Kuala Lumpur Declaration on the East Asia Summit.

Statement

Kuala Lumpur Declaration on the East Asia Summit

WE, the Heads of State/Government of the Member Countries of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), Australia, People's Republic of China, Republic of India, Japan, Republic of Korea and New Zealand, on the occasion of the historic First East Asia Summit on 14 December 2005 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia; RECALLING the decision of the 10th ASEAN Summit and supported by the 8th ASEAN Plus Three Summit held on 29 November 2004 in Vientiane, Lao PDR, to convene the First East Asia Summit in Malaysia in 2005;

REITERATING our commitment to the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia and other recognised principles of international law;

ACKNOWLEDGING that in a rapidly changing international environment, our economies and societies have become increasingly interlinked and interdependent;

REALISING the increasing range of challenges fating the world and the need for concerted regional and global efforts to respond to these challenges;

RECOGNISING our shared interests in achieving peace, security and prosperity in East Asia and the world at large;

DESIROUS of creating a peaceful environment by further enhancing cooperation and strengthening the existing bounds of friendship among our countries in keeping with the principles of equality, partnership, consultation and consensus thereby contributing to peace, security and economic prosperity in the region and the world at large;

CONVINCED of the importance of strengthening bilateral and multilateral interactions and cooperation among the participating countries of the East Asia Summit and the world at large on issues of common interest and concern in order to enhance peace and economic prosperity;

REITERATING the conviction that the effective functioning of multiateral systems will continue to be indispensable for advancing economic development;

RECOGNISING that this region is today a source of dynamism for the world economy;

SHARING the view that the East Asia Summit could play a significant role in community building in this region;

FURTHER RECOGNISING the need the support efforts to build a strong ASEAN Community which I will serve as a solid foundation for our common peace and prosperity;

DO HEREBY DECLARE:

FIRST, that we have established the East Asia Summit as a forum for dialogue on broad strategic, political and economic issues of common interest and concern with the aim of promoting peace, stability and economic prosperity in East Asia.

SECOND, that the efforts of the East Asia Summit to promote community building in this region will be consistent with and reinforce the realization of the ASEAN Community, and will form an integral part of the evolving regional architecture.

THIRD, that the East Asia Summit will be an open, inclusive, transparent and outward-looking forum in which we strive to strengthen global norms and universal recognised values with ASEAN as the driving force working in partnership with the other participants of the East Asia Summit.

FOURTH, we will focus, among others, on the following:

— Fostering strategic dialogue and promoting cooperation in political and security issues to ensure that our countries can live at peace with one another and with the world at large in a just, democratic and harmonious environment;

— Promoting development, financial stability, energy security, economic integration and growth, eradicating poverty and narrowing the development gap in East Asia, through technology transfer and infrastructure development, capacity building good governance and humanitarian assistance and promoting financial links, trade and investment expansion and liberalisation; and

— Promoting deeper cultural understanding, people-to-people contact and enhanced cooperation in uplifting the lives and well-being of our peoples in order to foster mutual trust and solidarity as well as promoting fields such as environmental protection, prevention of infectious diseases and natural disaster mitigation.

FIFTH, that:

— Participation in the East Asia Summit will be based on the criteria for participation established by ASEAN;

— The East Asia Summit will be convened regularly;

— The East Asia Summit will be hosted and chaired by an ASEAN Member Country that assumes the ASEAN Chairmanship and held back-to-back with the annual ASEAN Summit; and

— The modalities of the East Asia Summit will be reviewed by ASEAN and all other participating countries of the East Asia Summit.

SIGNED at Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, on the Fourteenth Day of December in the Year Two Thousand and Five.

Resolving J&K issue with Pakistan

425. SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether US Congressman Dan Burton visited India recently and held discussions with representative of Jammu and Kashmir on the question of resolving that issue with Pakistan;

(b) whether a representative of Government of India also participated in these talks; and

(c) if not, in what capacity was the Chief Information Commissioner of India Shri Wajahat Habibullah present in these talks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI ANAND SHARMA): (a) US Congressman Dan Burton led a 7-member delegation of the US Congress to India from 27-30 November, 2005. It is Government's understanding that while the US Congressional delegation was in India, the US Charge d'Affaires hosted a social event in honour of the delegation on 28 November, 2005 that was attended by some personalities from Jammu and Kashmir.

(b) No representative of Government participated in this event.

(c) Chief Information Commissioner Shri Wajahat Habibullah was also reportedly present at this event organized by the US Embassy in his individual capacity.